

**Thomas Jefferson to Levi Lincoln, June 25, 1806, from  
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Ford.**

**TO LEVI LINCOLN J. MSS.**

Washington, June 25, 06.

Dear Sir, —It gave me great pleasure to receive your letter of the 17th and especially to learn you had accepted your new post.<sup>1</sup> The newspapers tell us that Dr. Eustis has qualified. Mr. Gerry I presume & Genl. Heath must have reasons of justification for declining unknown to us at a distance. Otherwise we should say that a good souldier does not retire on

1 Council of Massachusetts.

carrying the town merely, while the citadel is still in the enemy's hands. I presume however it will be surrendered at the end of this campaign, as all hopes of relief will then be desperate.

Every communication from Mr. Monroe strengthens our expectation that the new pretence of the British to controul our commerce with belligerent colonies will be properly restricted, and the outrages on our seamen brought to an end. I had apprehended that the attempts of a little party of seceders in Congress, to assassinate our negotiations for peace & justice from Spain and France by proclaiming views communicated to them in confidence, and using a language of irritation calculated to indispose those powers to listen to us, would have effected their views and forced us into what they deemed necessary for the liberties of mankind, war with Spain & France & consequently alliance with Britain. But the course

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which things are taking in Europe & some symptoms at Madrid & Paris induce me now to hope we may obtain the same ground which was put in our power last autumn. On the whole I do hope that at the next session of Congress we may inform the nation that we have brought to an end the wrongs they have been suffering from one people, and obtained from another justice, peace, &

perhaps an arrondissement of empire which may promise us long years of tranquility. There will be some gratification too personally, in proving to our constituents, that their old servants have done nothing either in the way of wickedness or folly to forfeit their confidence, nor their new & unfledged friends anything to merit it. As our measures will have resulted in peace, the inference is that the contrary measures pressed on us would have resulted in contrary effects.

The proposition respecting the marshallship mentioned in your letter, was, as you supposed, not the first. Another had been weightily patronized & had produced such a degree of commitment as cannot but have influenced our final determination. Certainly every act would give me superior pleasure inasmuch as it would be pleasing to you. But my knowledge of you also placed me at my ease in giving to all considerations the whole weight which they are in justice & duty entitled to receive. Accept my friendly salutations & assurances of continued attachment & respect.